

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS IN THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

President: **Frances Ross**

In 2007 the executive committee met two times and the full board met once via conference call. During the board meeting, these officers were reelected for another two-year term: Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chairman of the Board; Frances Ross, President; F. Richard Lyford, Vice President; Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary; Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer. The Historical Society welcomed several new members to its board of directors: Hon. Morris S. Arnold (Appeals), Hon. Linda R. Reade and Leonard T. Strand (Iowa Northern), Hon. Robert W. Pratt (Iowa Southern), and Hon. Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr. and Paul E. Donnelly (Missouri Western).

To encourage the preservation and donation of chambers papers, Historical Society Chair Judge Kopf sent a letter to all Eighth Circuit judges reminding them to consider this important contribution to history. A list of the locations of Eighth Circuit judges' papers was posted on the Historical Society web site to assist judges and researchers in locating repositories of chambers papers.

Library staff prepared a display honoring the late Judge Donald P. Lay for his memorial session in September and helped coordinate the donation of Justice Harry Blackmun's robe to the Circuit. The Circuit Librarian spoke at the robe dedication ceremony.

Court of Appeals

A comprehensive history of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, *Establishing Justice in Middle America*, was released for publication by the University of Minnesota Press in December. This written history was a project led by branch President Thomas H. Boyd. Author Jeffrey B. Morris, Professor of the Touro Law Center, is a highly accomplished legal historian, and the Honorable William H. Webster wrote the forward to the book. The publisher supplied complimentary copies for the Eighth Circuit's active and senior Article III judges, the Historical Society Executive Committee, and Eighth Circuit law reviews and state historical societies.

Arkansas Eastern

All essays have been received for the branch's biographical essays project, and the work is in the editing process. A publisher has not yet been identified.

Arkansas Western

The branch hopes to be involved in the development of the U.S. Marshal Museum that will be built in Fort Smith.

Iowa Northern

Richard Lyford has been working with Chief Judge Linda Reade and Leonard Strand to help the branch become more active. The branch is considering an event next spring to publicize its activity. Another possible project is the interview of Judge David Hansen.

Iowa Southern

Judge George G. Fagg's retirement interview is in the editing process. The branch hopes to interview Judge Longstaff and at Chief Judge Pratt's suggestion, compile all the federal cases originating in the district that went to the Supreme Court. Judge Peterson, court historian for the district, plans to update the district's written history.

Minnesota

The branch completed a display honoring Judge Rensselaer Nelson, Minnesota's first federal judge, for the Minneapolis Courthouse lobby display case. The branch also converted the oral histories of Minnesota's senior district judges to DVD format and is planning follow up interviews. At the branch's invitation, Archives Librarian Joan Voelker visited the Minneapolis Courthouse's History Room and recommended ways to organize and preserve its historical materials.

Missouri Eastern

The subcommittee to publish the district's history has located an author, Dr. Burton Boxerman. The architecture subcommittee has collected photos of courthouses. A memo is being prepared on the 17 most notable cases. The oral history subcommittee finished Judge Hungate's interview and plans to next interview Judges Nangle and Filippine. These oral histories will be available in the Judicial Learning Center in the Eagleton Courthouse.

Missouri Western

The branch is in the process of reorganizing by electing new leadership, setting goals and priorities, and recruiting members. The district completed an oral history project, *Moments in Time*, with interviews on DVD of Court of Appeals Judge John R. Gibson, who served on the district court, Clerk of District Court Patricia L. Brune, and the district's 16 judges.

Nebraska

The branch revised its regulations to conform with Advisory Opinion No. 104 of the Judicial Conference's Codes of Conduct Committee by making it clear the court was not in control of the branch and to align the branch with the Federal Practice Fund and Federal Practice Committee for funding purposes. The branch engaged an historian from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to write a history of the district, but progress has been delayed. Judge Kopf took part in a panel discussion at the Nebraska Bar meeting on the trial of Standing Bear in which Judge Dundy ruled that Native Americans were persons under the habeas corpus statute. The branch gave copies of Nebraska federal judges' oral histories to Creighton University, and they are available in streaming video on the University's web site.

North Dakota

The branch has been gathering artifacts from the late Judge Davies and is planning to have a visiting judges chambers in Judge Davies' name with his desk and artifacts.

South Dakota

The branch completed the oral histories of Judges Battey and Jones and plans to interview Circuit Judge Wollman next. A brown bag luncheon featuring Judge Jones' oral history, with Judge Jones present to follow up on information in the interview, was so successful that the branch intends to also present Judges Battey and Bogue's interviews.

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